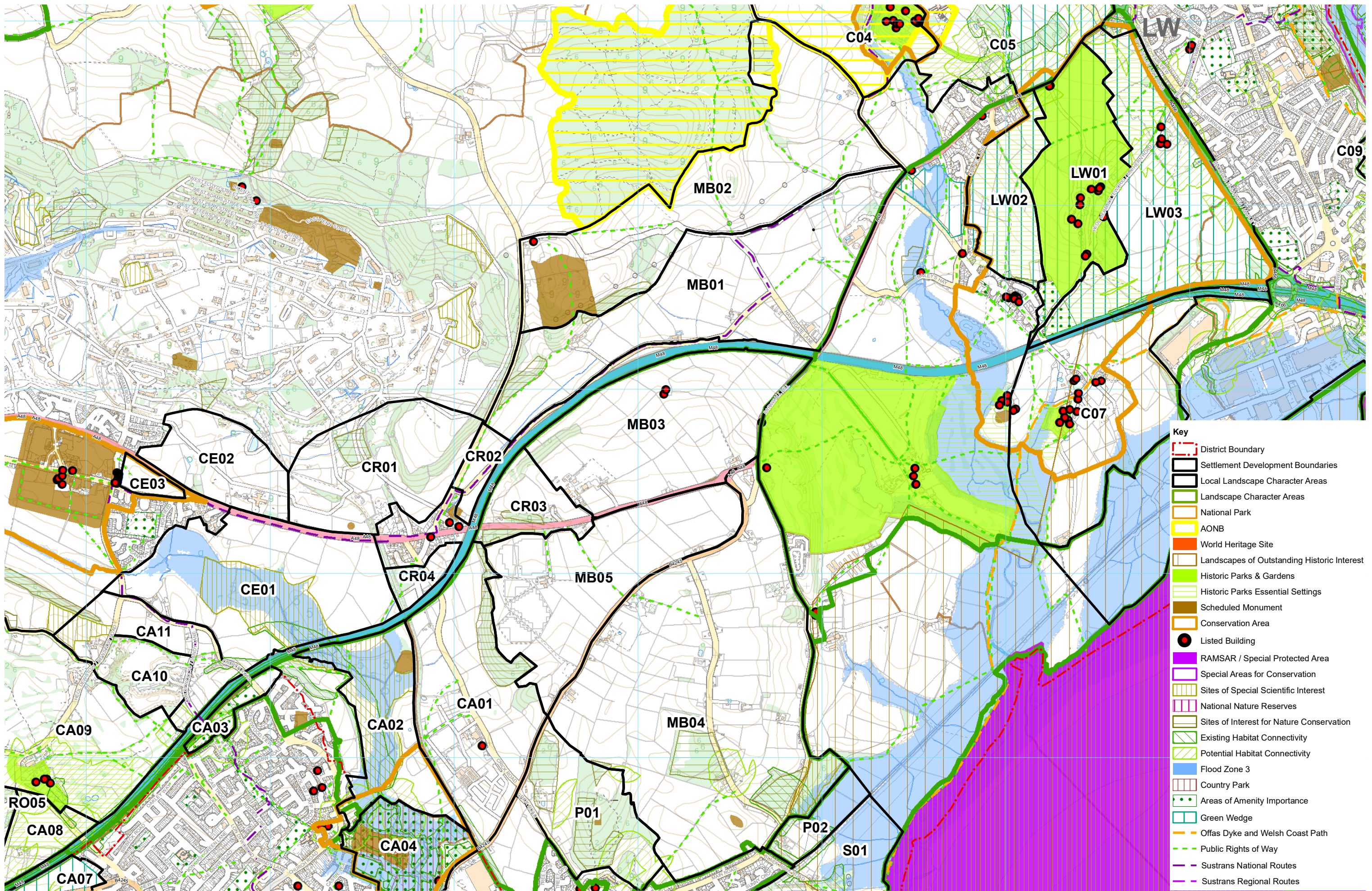


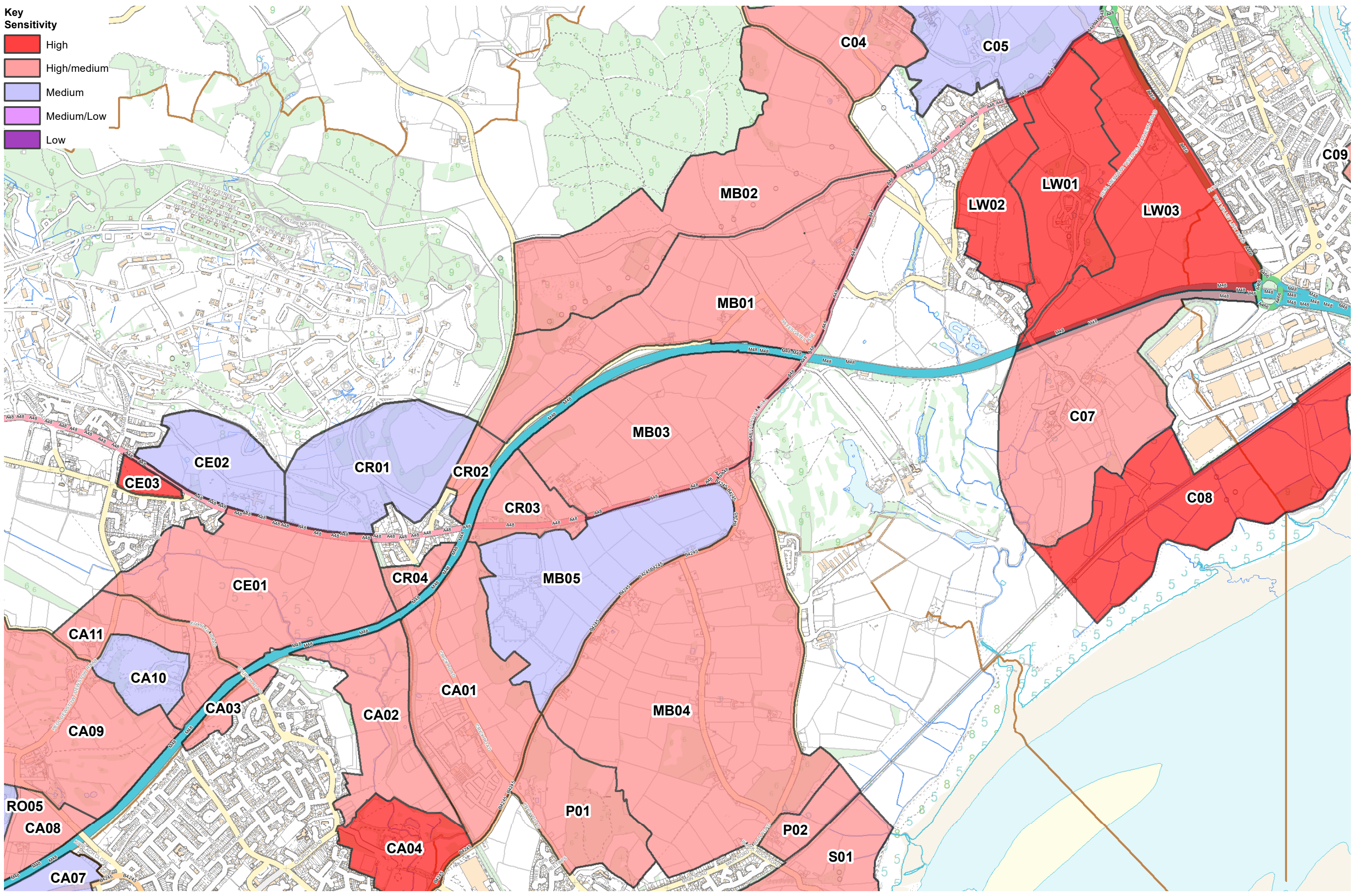
Mount Ballan LLCAs



- Key**
- District Boundary
 - Settlement Development Boundaries
 - Local Landscape Character Areas
 - Landscape Character Areas
 - National Park
 - AONB
 - World Heritage Site
 - Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest
 - Historic Parks & Gardens
 - Historic Parks Essential Settings
 - Scheduled Monument
 - Conservation Area
 - Listed Building
 - RAMSAR / Special Protected Area
 - Special Areas for Conservation
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest
 - National Nature Reserves
 - Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation
 - Existing Habitat Connectivity
 - Potential Habitat Connectivity
 - Flood Zone 3
 - Country Park
 - Areas of Amenity Importance
 - Green Wedge
 - Offas Dyke and Welsh Coast Path
 - Public Rights of Way
 - Sustrans National Routes
 - Sustrans Regional Routes

Key Sensitivity

- High
- High/medium
- Medium
- Medium/Low
- Low



0 0.3 0.6 1.2 Kilometres



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www.whiteconsultants.co.uk

Project: Monmouthshire Landscape Sensitivity Study
Client: Monmouthshire County Council
Date: February 2020
Status: Revision 1

Mount Ballan

Landscape sensitivity of LLCAs

SUMMARY**Key characteristics**

Very gently sloping dry valley with land rising to the north east

Mixed pasture and arable farmland within semi-regular fields of trimmed hedges, gappy in places, some trees and fences.

Scattered rural settlement of farmsteads and dwellings along narrow lanes..

Distinctively open valley enclosed by rising woodland to the north west and by M48 on embankment and further slopes to the south.

Tranquillity reduced by M48 corridor.

National cycle route and PROWs running through the area.

Woodland SINC to the west.

Runston medieval village and chapel SM directly to the north

Landscape and visual sensitivity to housing High/Medium

The susceptibility of the area lies in its location away from settlements in open countryside, its distinctive open valley character and partly wooded slopes especially to the west enclosed by further wooded hills to the north and south, the rising land to the east towards the Wye Valley AONB to the north, the area's openness and rural character and visibility from the M48 and national cycle route. The value of the area lies in the woodland SINC to the west, Runston medieval village and chapel SM directly to the north, the national cycle route and PROWs running through the area. LANDMAP value is high for visual and sensory, historic landscape, cultural landscape and geological landscape and in part for landscape habitats.

Does the area or its attributes contribute to the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act Goals ?

- a prosperous Wales a resilient Wales a more equal Wales a globally responsible Wales
 a Wales of cohesive communities a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language a healthier Wales

VALUE

Landmap Context	Aspect area value	Aspect area value
Geological Landscapes	High	Landscape Habitats 55% high, 45% moderate
Historical Landscapes	High	Cultural Landscapes High
Visual and Sensory	High	

Designations

Landscape designations comments	Wye Valley AONB located to the north		
National Park	AONB		
Historic/archaeology designations comments	Runston medieval village and chapel SM directly to the north		
Historic Parks and Gardens	Hist. Parks and Gardens Setting	Listed Building	
Landscape of Hist. Interest	Scheduled Monument	Conservation Area	WHS
Biodiversity designations comments	woodland SINC to the west		
SAC	NNR	SINC Yes	SSSI RAMSAR

Recreation Factors

Country Park	National Trail	National/Regional Cycle Route	Yes
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LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND SUSCEPTIBILITY**Landscape Character Area**

LCA Name Caerwent Hinterland LCA Number 4 also part of

Characteristics

Landform floor of very gently sloping dry valley with land rising to the north east

Landcover pasture

Pattern

Settlement pattern scattered rural farmsteads and dwellings with garden centre on A48

Woodland cover woodland on steeper slopes to the south west
 Boundaries semi-regular fields of trimmed hedges, gappy in parts, and fences
 Presence of water -
 Diversity simple Scale medium
 Sense of enclosure distinctively open within the area but enclosed by rising woodland to the north west and by M48 on embankment to the south

Function of Area

Pastoral Arable Horticulture Recreation other

Comments pasture and arable mixed

Functional relationship and connectivity

...with wider landscape some ...with settlement none

...with adjacent assessed area? some Corridor?

Existing Habitat Connectivity Habitat Connectivity Opportunity

the area appears to be managed as part of wider landholdings, there are PROWs and the national cycle route runs along the lanes through the area

Are adjacent assessed areas mutually reliant... ...visually? ...functionally

Comments -

PERCEPTUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY**Skyline**

Prominence/importance not applicable Complexity simple

Comments -

Key views

To settlement the area is located away from settlements

From settlement the area is located away from settlements

Landmarks -

Detractors M48

Intervisibility

Site observation medium ...to key features ...from key places

Comments the area is overlooked by the M48 and increases in wider visibility to the east

Tranquillity

Noise sources roads

Views of development some Presence of people infrequent

Summary medium/low

Comments visually the area is tranquil but tranquillity is reduced by the noise and movement of the adjacent M48

Settlement edge

Pre C20th edge C20-21st edge Nature of edge Form of edge

Comments n/a

Visual relationship and connectivity

...with settlement none ...with wider landscape some ...with adjacent assessed area some

Setting

Comments the area is set away from settlement and contained by higher land to the north and south

Receptors

rural residents
long distance/public footpaths
roads/rail/cycleways

Sensitivity

high
high
medium

Comments The main receptors are users of the M48, rural residents, users of the national cycle route and PROWs

OTHER

Other factors -

Potential Improvements (if no development) reinforce hedgerows and encourage tree growth

Mitigation (if development)

SUMMARY**Key characteristics**

Rolling hill slopes with distinctive rounded landforms (Willis Hill).

Pastoral and arable farmland and strong woodland cover on steeper slopes and hill tops.

Semi-regular fields of trimmed hedges, gappy in parts, with some trees.

Scattered rural farmsteads and dwellings.

The rising ground is visible to the south and east as part of the backcloth and skyline, and from the M48

Visually the area is very tranquil with scenic views especially east/west.

Runston medieval village and chapel SM with listed buildings to east and west.

Woodland SINC to the west.

National cycle route and PROWs running through the area.

Landscape and visual sensitivity to housing High/Medium

The susceptibility of the area lies in its location away from settlements in open countryside, its rising rolling hill slopes with rounded landforms (Willis Hill) and woodland which form a distinctive and scenic backcloth to the lower land to the south and east, complementing the woodland block to the north, and visibility from the M48 and national cycle route. The value of the area lies in the Runston medieval village and chapel SM with listed buildings to east and west, Wye Valley AONB to the north, the woodland SINC to the west, the national cycle route and PROWs running through the area. LANDMAP value is high for visual and sensory, historic landscape, cultural landscape and geological landscape.

Does the area or its attributes contribute to the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act Goals ?

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 a Wales of cohesive communities a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language a healthier Wales

VALUE

Landmap Context	Aspect area value	Aspect area value
Geological Landscapes	High	Landscape Habitats 90% moderate, 10% high
Historical Landscapes	High	Cultural Landscapes High
Visual and Sensory	High	

Designations

Landscape designations comments	Wye Valley AONB located to the north east and on northern edge		
National Park	AONB	Yes	
Historic/archaeology designations comments	Runston medieval village and chapel SM, listed buildings to east and west respectively		
Historic Parks and Gardens	Hist. Parks and Gardens Setting	Listed Building	Yes
Landscape of Hist. Interest	Scheduled Monument	Yes	Conservation Area
			WHS
Biodiversity designations comments	woodland SINC to the east and west		
SAC	NNR	SINC	Yes
	SSSI	RAMSAR	

Recreation Factors

Country Park	National Trail	National/Regional Cycle Route	Yes
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LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND SUSCEPTIBILITY**Landscape Character Area**

LCA Name Caerwent Hinterland LCA Number 4 also part of 44 0

Characteristics

Landform rolling hill slopes with distinctive rounded landforms (Willis Hill)

Landcover pasture and woodland

Pattern

Settlement pattern scattered rural farmsteads and dwellings

Woodland cover strong woodland cover on steeper slopes and hill tops
 Boundaries semi-regular fields of trimmed hedges, gappy in parts, with some trees
 Presence of water -
 Diversity diverse Scale medium
 Sense of enclosure generally enclosed by landform and woodland but with some open slopes

Function of Area

Pastoral Arable Horticulture Recreation other

Comments pastoral and arable farmland and woodland

Functional relationship and connectivity

...with wider landscape some ...with settlement none

...with adjacent assessed area? some Corridor?

Existing Habitat Connectivity Habitat Connectivity Opportunity

the area appears to be managed as part of wider landholdings, there are PROWs and the national cycle route runs along the lanes through the area and the woodland blocks provide habitat connectivity with the larger woodland block to the north (St Pierre's Great Woods)

Are adjacent assessed areas mutually reliant... ... visually? ...functionally

Comments -

PERCEPTUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY**Skyline**

Prominence/importance prominent Complexity complex

Comments -

Key views

To settlement the area is located away from settlements

From settlement the area is located away from settlements

Landmarks Willis Hill is a distinctive hillock

Detractors -

Intervisibility

Site observation high ...to key features ...from key places

Comments the area is on rising ground visible to the south and east and visible from the M48

Tranquillity

Noise sources roads

Views of development some Presence of people infrequent

Summary medium

Comments visually the area is very tranquil but tranquillity is reduced to a extent by the noise and movement of the M48 to the south

Settlement edge

Pre C20th edge C20-21st edge Nature of edge Form of edge

Comments n/a

Visual relationship and connectivity

...with settlement none ...with wider landscape some ...with adjacent assessed area some

Setting

Comments the area is set away from settlement and forms part of the rising hill backcloth to the lower land to the south

Receptors

rural residents
long distance/public footpaths
roads/rail/cycleways

Sensitivity

high
high
medium

Comments the main receptors are users of the M48, rural residents, users of the national cycle route and PROWs

OTHER

Other factors -

Potential Improvements (if no development)

reinforce hedgerows and encourage tree growth in hedgerows, manage woodland to maintain cover and for biodiversity

Mitigation (if development) -

SUMMARY

Key characteristics

Killcrow Hill with slopes falling steeply to the north west and distinctly down to the north east rolling over to the south with gentler slopes.

Regular medium to large fields of trimmed hedges, gappy and removed in parts.

Scattered rural farmsteads and dwellings with semi-rural commercial estate at 'The Hatchery'.

Generally open but partly enclosed by woodland to the north west.

Simple skyline and slopes prominent when viewed from the north including the M48 and national cycle route and apparent from the south- A48 and beyond.

Woodland SINC to the west.

Landscape and visual sensitivity to housing High/Medium

The susceptibility of the area lies in its location away from settlements in open countryside, its prominent slopes and skyline to the north, its generally open and unenclosed character and visibility from the M48 and national cycle route and PROWs to the north. The value of the area lies in the woodland SINC to the west.

The area along the A48 to the south below the skyline is slightly less sensitive. LANDMAP value is outstanding for cultural landscape and high for historic landscape.

Does the area or its attributes contribute to the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act Goals ?

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VALUE

Landmap Context	Aspect area value	Aspect area value
Geological Landscapes	80% high, 20% moderate	Landscape Habitats Moderate
Historical Landscapes	High	Cultural Landscapes Outstanding
Visual and Sensory	Moderate	

Designations

Landscape designations comments -

National Park AONB

Historic/archaeology designations comments Hill Barn listed building, St Pierre historic park and garden adjacent to the east

Historic Parks and Gardens	Hist. Parks and Gardens Setting	Listed Building	Yes
Landscape of Hist. Interest	Scheduled Monument	Conservation Area	WHS

Biodiversity designations comments woodland SINC to the west

SAC	NNR	SINC	SSSI	RAMSAR

Recreation Factors

Country Park	National Trail	National/Regional Cycle Route

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND SUSCEPTIBILITY

Landscape Character Area

LCA Name	LCA Number	also part of	0	0
Chepstow Hills	40			

Characteristics

Landform Killcrow Hill with slopes falling steeply to the north west and distinctly down to the north east rolling over to the south with gentler slopes

Landcover pasture and arable

Pattern

Settlement pattern scattered rural farmsteads and dwellings with semi-rural commercial estate at Bentley Green/Hawthorn 'The Hatchery'

Woodland cover woodland on steeper slopes to the north west

Boundaries regular medium to large fields of trimmed hedges, gappy and removed in parts

Presence of water -

Diversity simple Scale medium

Sense of enclosure distinctively open but partly enclosed by woodland to the north west

Function of Area

Pastoral Arable Horticulture Recreation other

Comments pasture and arable mixed

Functional relationship and connectivity

...with wider landscape some ...with settlement none

...with adjacent assessed area? some Corridor?

Existing Habitat Connectivity Habitat Connectivity Opportunity

the area appears to be managed as part of wider landholdings and there are no PROWs

Are adjacent assessed areas mutually reliant... ... visually? ...functionally

Comments -

PERCEPTUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

Skyline

Prominence/importance prominent Complexity simple

Comments simple skyline prominent when viewed from the north including the M48 and apparent from the south

Key views

To settlement the area is located away from settlements

From settlement the area is located away from settlements

Landmarks -

Detractors M48, Bentley Green/Hawthorn 'The Hatchery' is a minor detractor

Intervisibility

Site observation high ...to key features ...from key places

Comments The northern slopes and skyline is highly visible to the north including the M48. The southern area along the A48 is less widely visible.

Tranquillity

Noise sources roads

Views of development some Presence of people infrequent

Summary medium/low

Comments the tranquillity is reduced by the noise and movement of the adjacent M48 and A48 and the small commercial area

Settlement edge

Pre C20th edge C20-21st edge Nature of edge Form of edge

Comments n/a

Visual relationship and connectivity

...with settlement none ...with wider landscape some ...with adjacent assessed area some

Setting

Comments the area is set away from settlement and as a hill contains lower land to the north

Receptors

Sensitivity

rural residents	high
long distance/public footpaths	high
roads/rail/cycleways	medium

Comments The main receptors are users of the M48, rural residents, users of the national cycle route and PROWs outside the area to the north

OTHER

Other factors -

Potential Improvements (if no development) reinstate and reinforce hedgerows and encourage tree growth

Mitigation (if development)

SUMMARY**Key characteristics**

Hill/ridge slopes rising from the Gwent levels with well defined slopes to the east, a gently sloping ridge top to the north and along Leechpool Lane and a more enclosed undulating valley to the west.

Mosaic of pasture, arable and deciduous woodland which is distinctive oak pasture at Ruffets and willow dominated on the lower slopes to the east.

Rectilinear and regular medium-sized field pattern of low-cut hedgerows with fences.

Distinctive dispersed linear settlement at Leechpool (a former Welsh land Settlement) to the east with poor linear settlement edge to Portskewett to the south.

Area used for local access with the barrow a particular focal point.

Intervisibility between area and levels.

Distinctive form of the Heston Brake Long Barrow and standing stones which are a SM.

SSSI and SINC woodlands.

Landscape and visual sensitivity to housing High/Medium

The susceptibility of the area lies in its location largely away from existing settlement to the north, the rising slopes above and intervisible with the levels, the skylines within the area seen from various points, the distinctive woodlands to the south of the area with associated traditional pastures, the local focus of Heston Brake Long Barrow which is locally accessible and the distinctive dispersed linear pattern of Leechpool and the traditional farm complex at Ruffets. The value of the area lies in Heston Brake Long Barrow and standing stones which are a SM, the SSSI and SINC woodlands and the PROW through the area to the south. LANDMAP value is outstanding for cultural landscape and high for historic landscape.

Does the area or its attributes contribute to the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act Goals ?

- a prosperous Wales a resilient Wales a more equal Wales a globally responsible Wales
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VALUE

Landmap Context	Aspect area value	Aspect area value
Geological Landscapes	90% moderate, 10% high	Landscape Habitats Moderate
Historical Landscapes	High	Cultural Landscapes Outstanding
Visual and Sensory	Moderate	

Designations

Landscape designations comments in Green Wedge to the west of Leechpool Lane and south of Crown Hill Nurseries

National Park AONB

Historic/archaeology designations comments Heston Brake Long Barrow and Stones- a SM, Gwent Levels Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest to south east; St Pierre historic park and garden to the north east

Historic Parks and Gardens	Hist. Parks and Gardens Setting	Listed Building
Landscape of Hist. Interest Yes	Scheduled Monument Yes	Conservation Area WHS

Biodiversity designations comments SSSI- Bushy Close; SINCs at Ruffets (oak woodland pasture) and Withey Bed (both ancient and semi-natural woodland)

SAC NNR SINC SSSI Yes RAMSAR

Recreation Factors

Country Park National Trail National/Regional Cycle Route

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND SUSCEPTIBILITY

Landscape Character Area

LCA Name Chepstow Hills LCA Number 40 also part of 0 0

Characteristics

Landform hill/ridge slopes rising from the Gwent levels with well defined slopes to the east, a gently sloping ridge top to the north and along Leechpool Lane and a more enclosed undulating valley to the west

Landcover mosaic of pasture, arable and deciduous woodland

Pattern

Settlement pattern distinctive dispersed linear rural settlement at Leechpool (a former Welsh Land Settlement) and dispersed dwellings/commercial nurseries on B4245 and to the east, and traditional farm complex at Ruffets

Woodland cover distinctive oak woodland pasture at Ruffets and deciduous woodland with willows to the south east with mixed woodland to the west outside the area

Boundaries mix of regular and rectilinear medium-sized field pattern of low-cut hedgerows with fences, most associated with Leechpool settlement pattern

 Presence of water -

Diversity diverse Scale medium

Sense of enclosure moderately open with views to the south

Function of AreaPastoral Arable Horticulture Recreation other

Comments mainly pasture with some arable

Functional relationship and connectivity

...with wider landscape some ...with settlement some

...with adjacent assessed area? some Corridor? Existing Habitat Connectivity Habitat Connectivity Opportunity

the area could be managed as part of a wider landholding, with some individually owned plots, there is existing habitat connectivity to the south - between woodlands and there are public rights of way linking the area with the settlement to the south

Are adjacent assessed areas mutually reliant... ...visually? ...functionally

Comments -

PERCEPTUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY**Skyline**

Prominence/importance prominent Complexity simple

Comments area provides skyline when viewed from the south and east including settlement- the long barrow is particularly locally apparent from Portskewett

Key viewsTo settlement -From settlement view from Main Road at eastern end of the settlement up towards the barrow

Landmarks Long Barrow

Detractors Portskewett settlement edge

IntervisibilitySite observation medium ...to key features ...from key places

Comments the hillside is intervisible with the levels and estuary and Prince of Wales Bridge to the south

Tranquillity

Noise sources people

Views of development one side 180 Presence of people infrequent

Summary high/medium

Comments the area is relatively tranquil with only minor roads and footpaths although long views of the Prince of Wales Bridge

Settlement edge

Pre C20th edge C20-21st edge Nature of edge negative Form of edge smooth/linear

Comments Portskewett's edge is linear ribbon development which generally creates a poor edge and visible from public footpath and Long Barrow to the north

Visual relationship and connectivity

...with settlement significant ...with wider landscape some ...with adjacent assessed area some

Setting

Comments the area acts as the rising backcloth behind the settlement of Portskewett and the levels to the east

Receptors

Sensitivity

viewpoints

high

long distance/public footpaths

high

rural residents

high

urban residents

high/medium

Comments the Long Barrow appears to be accessible and is a local vantage point within the area

OTHER

Other factors -

Potential Improvements (if no development)

protection and enhancement of SINC's, allowing regeneration of Ruffets woodland, increasing habitat connectivity between woodlands within and outside area including hedgerow planting with trees

Mitigation (if development)

if developed, the least sensitive areas are the ridgetop to the north and the discreet valley to the east. There should avoidance of development in and between woodland blocks to the south to allow strong habitat connectivity between them

SUMMARY**Key characteristics**

An open and very gently sloping broad ridge with land falling away within the area to the south west.

Rectilinear medium scale fields with fences and degraded low-cut hedges.

Tree cover is very limited with woodland on steep slopes to the west and north west and occasional mature trees along with the B4245 the south.

Farmstead and occasional rural dwellings along adjacent roads.

The area lies the open countryside away from settlements.

The ridgetop is exposed to views to the hills to the north.

The tranquillity is reduced by the adjacent roads the north and south and the openness of the area.

Landscape and visual sensitivity to housing Medium

The susceptibility of the area lies in its openness allowing views across it, its visibility to higher ground to the north and south west and its location in open countryside away from existing settlement. The value of the area lies in its few hedgerow oaks and hedges and the adjacent SINCs to the west. The LANDMAP value is outstanding for cultural landscape and high for historic landscape.

Does the area or its attributes contribute to the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act Goals ?

- a prosperous Wales a resilient Wales a more equal Wales a globally responsible Wales
 a Wales of cohesive communities a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language a healthier Wales

VALUE

Landmap Context	Aspect area value	Aspect area value
Geological Landscapes	Moderate	Landscape Habitats Moderate
Historical Landscapes	High	Cultural Landscapes Outstanding
Visual and Sensory	Moderate	

Designations

Landscape designations comments	-		
National Park	AONB		
Historic/archaeology designations comments	-		
Historic Parks and Gardens	Hist. Parks and Gardens Setting	Listed Building	
Landscape of Hist. Interest	Scheduled Monument	Conservation Area	WHS
Biodiversity designations comments	SINC woodland adjacent to the western boundary		
SAC	NNR	SINC	SSSI RAMSAR

Recreation Factors

Country Park National Trail National/Regional Cycle Route

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND SUSCEPTIBILITY**Landscape Character Area**

LCA Name Chepstow Hills LCA Number 40 also part of

Characteristics

Landform very gently sloping/undulating broad ridge top with land falling away within the area to the south west

Landcover pasture with some arable and solar array

Pattern

Settlement pattern farmstead and occasional rural dwellings along adjacent roads

Woodland cover deciduous woodland on steep slopes adjacent to the west and to the north west with occasional mature trees along B4245

Boundaries rectilinear medium scale fields with fences and degraded low-cut hedges

Presence of water -

Diversity simple Scale medium-large

Sense of enclosure open

Function of Area

Pastoral Arable Horticulture Recreation other

Comments pasture with some arable and solar array

Functional relationship and connectivity

...with wider landscape some ...with settlement none

...with adjacent assessed area? limited Corridor?

Existing Habitat Connectivity Habitat Connectivity Opportunity

the area is not connected to settlements being located in the countryside, appears to be managed as one unit and has two public footpaths crossing the area

Are adjacent assessed areas mutually reliant... ...visually? ...functionally

Comments -

PERCEPTUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

Skyline

Prominence/importance prominent Complexity simple

Comments northern edge forms skyline when viewed from the M48 to the north and west and also locally when approached from the south west along B4245 and generally any structures on the area would form the skyline as it is a flat hilltop

Key views

To settlement located away from settlement

From settlement located away from settlement

Landmarks -

Detractors roundabout with lighting and commercial development on A48 to the north east

Intervisibility

Site observation medium ...to key features ...from key places

Comments the area is visible from lower land along B4245 to the south west and from rural hills to the north west

Tranquillity

Noise sources roads

Views of development some Presence of people infrequent

Summary medium

Comments the area's tranquillity is reduced by the B4245 and A48 on three boundaries and the site's openness to these roads

Settlement edge

Pre C20th edge C20-21st edge Nature of edge Form of edge

Comments n/a

Visual relationship and connectivity

...with settlement none ...with wider landscape some ...with adjacent assessed area some

Setting

Comments the area is located in open countryside and has a relatively flat ridge top which is intervisible with other hills

Receptors

rural residents

Sensitivity

high

roads/rail/cycleways high

long distance/public footpaths high

Comments the main receptors are users of the adjacent roads, a few rural residents and users of the public footpaths

OTHER

Other factors -

Potential Improvements (if no development) replant and reinforce hedges including along roads, and especially to screen the solar array and provide habitat connections with additional hedgerow trees throughout.

Mitigation (if development) If developed as new settlement screen area from wider view to the north with substantial on site and offsite planting belts and on site green spaces which also help link St Pierre with woodlands to the west and south-west as habitat connections.